Juries - 1937

JURY EXCLUSION IS UNCONSTITUTIONAL, MO. COURT DECIDES

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., Dec. 23—When the Missouri Supreme Court last Friday cited the Scottsboro decision in ruling that deliberate exclusion of Negroes from juries is unconstitutional it marked the first decision of its kind in the state's history.

The ruling granted a new trial to Anderson Logan, accused of fatally shooting his wife three years ago, because she sought to divorce him.

Commenting, Cole County authorities stated: "We just haven't been putting Negro's names on jury wheels." They further said they hadn't decided whether the illegal practice would be stopped.

Juries-1937

Two Negroes To Serve On S. C. County Jury

COLUMBIA, S. C.—(ANP)—For the first time within the memory of the oldest inhabitant here two Negroes will serve on Richmond County's grand jury, at the term of general sessions court of Richland, beginning Jan. 11. Judge G. B. Greene of the Tenth Circuit will preside. The colored jurors are C. A. Johnson, supervisor of colored city schools, and W. H. Harvey of the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Co.

Virginia County Sees First Negro On Jury Service

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jau. —(ANP)— G. J. Carpenter, 60, alocal costractor ad canrpenter, this week became the first colored man to serve on a trial jury in Arlington County, Va., since the reconstruction days following the Civil War. He is a native of the county and the jury on which he sat heard the case of Carrie Branch, colored, charged with an assault upon Elmer Street, also colored. Judge Walter T. McCarthy of the County Circuit court, presided. The defendant was found guilty and sentenced to a year in the county jail. Several months ago, another colored Virginian served as a member of the Arlington county grand jury, also the first since the reconstruction period.

FIRST NEGRO SERVES UPON JURY IN MOORE

(Special to Daily News)

Carthage, Jan. 22.—June Harrington, negro, is unconsciously making Moore county history by being the first member of his race ever to serve on a jury in the county in the rememberance of oldest inhabitants. He is from near Cameron and is one of the four negroes in Greenwood township entitled to vote under the famous "grandfather" clause. He comes of a family of negroes who were never slaves.

Charlotte, N. C., News
January 21, 1937

Grand Jury Change Becomes Law, With Negro Participation

Senator Bell's Bill Passes, Enabling Superior Court Judges To Dismiss Grand Juries—Will Legalize County Grand Juries.

Pretty soon now, after the next convening of criminal superior court, the Yankees will have won the civil war in Mecklenburg county. It was done by statute in Raleigh today, when Senator Jim Bell's bill to permit superior court judges to dismiss grand jurors passed the house and was an act instead of a bill.

The Capitulation of Charlotte already was two-thirdts an accomplished fact, and the little new law finished it. Negro citizens, after this, not only will have a theoretical right to serve on grand juries, but can actually serve. In that way, 72 years later, Grant took Mecklenburg.

One of the quick results of the Civil war was a constitutional amendment which opened to negroes the full rights of citizenship. Southern states including North Carolina, countered by disfranchising negroes on educational and other grounds—and to that extent the northern armies failed to accomplish their original objective. Since that time, however, as the negro race mdae itself capable of the duties of citizenship thier privileges were steadily extended and their public responsibilities steadily increased. The whole remaining question came to a head in the famous Scottsboro case, when the United States supreme court decalred illegal the actions those state court which barred negroes from jury duty.

In Mecklenburg county last fall negroes were admitted to jury boxes, but the grand jury, which is constituted differently, had to be changed by statute. Under Senator Bell's bill superior court judges can now dismiss grand jurors in the court's discretion. That privilege beingg ranted, the next judge opening court here will dismiss the remaining six illegal grand jurors and six others will bed rawn from the new jury box—and the war will be over.

Greensboro, N. C., News
January 23, 1937

FIRST NEGRO SERVES UPON JURY IN MOORE

(Special to Daily News)

Carthage, Jan. 22.—June Harrington, negro, is unconsciously making Moore county history by being the first member of his race ever to serve on a jury in the county in the rememberance of oldest inhabitants. He is from near Cameron and is one of the four negroes in Greenwood township entitled to vote under the famous "grandfather" clause. He comes of a family of negroes who were never slaves.

Raleigh, N. C. Observer
January 26, 1937

Negro Juror

For the first time in recent years, a Negro was sworn in as a juror in Wake County Superior Court yesterday.

The Negro was H. L. Jones, who lives on the outskirts of the city. He was summoned with the regular panel for a one-week term of civil court, with Judge Marshall T. Spears, presiding.

Jones was not called to sit on a case yesterday, but he did not ask to be excused and was scheduled to report again this morning.

Names of Negro citizens have been included in the Wake jury lists for some years, but Jones was the first actually to be sworn for service.

Negro jurors on Federal juries here are not uncommon.

PICK NEGRO JUROR.

Raleigh, Jan. 25.—(AP)—For the first time in recent years, a negro was sworn in as a juror in Wake county Superior court today. He was H. L. Jones, who was summoned for a one-week term of civil court.

Raleigh, N. C. Observer
January 30, 1937

NEGRO JUROR CALLED FOR ACTIVE DUTY HERE

H. L. Jones, Negro of Raleigh Township, who was drawn on a jury panel for service at this week's term of Wake Superior Civil Court, yesterday morning sat on a case, the first of his race actually to serve on a State court jury here in recent years.

Jones took his seat in the jury box along with 11 white jurors and helped decide a verdict which gave R. L. Thompson, former dairy employe here, damages of $10,000 against C. R. Brogan of Richmond, Va. The case was not contested.

Thompson sued as administrator for the estate of his son, Dewey, who was killed in an automobile crash in 1934. Brogan did not appear in court and the judgment was given by default.

Juror Jones yesterday afternoon drew his check for five days' service, although he sat on only one case.

Put Duty First

Negroes called to jury service who do not serve, no matter what their excuse, build up the all-white jury system which is the real reason for the miscarriage of justice for their people.

It is easy to talk about rights. But to keep them, they must be used. Not only should a Negro serve on the jury willingly, but he should insist that he be called. Negroes on the jury should be commonplace, so much a part of the regular order of things, that even an all-white jury would have no preconceived idea that all Negroes are criminals.

We could excuse Negroes efforts to get off the jury with better grace if we did not know that many of them are putty men, moulded in their thinking by the promptings of others. They do not see that it is contempt for them which inspires the deputy bringing them the summons to jury service to suggest that they can be excused for the asking. Other officials have their part in creating this very unwholesome situation, but until the Negro himself realizes his remissness and corrects it, it is idle to call upon the judges to see that juries represent a cross section of the public.

Every time a Negro gets excused from the jury, he has done his bit toward convicting the Scottsboro boys, and toward multiplying the Negro population of state penitentiaries. In the jury box, he is the citizen upholding the law, the one complete answer to the libel that all Negroes are criminal. But excused, he confirms what race prejudice says of his people.

Correction of this faulty attitude toward jury service will come only after the Negro public requires of the individual that he put duty ahead of convenience or preference. The Negro church and the Negro home should enlist to compel men to serve on the jury.

TWO NEGROES SERVE ON TENNESSEE JURY

MEMPHIS, Tenn., March 16.—(AP) A circuit court jury, which included two negroes, failed to agree today in a civil suit involving a white man and a negro although the negro jurors sided with the majority which favored a partial verdict for the white plaintiff.

A white juror held out against the other 11 for a complete victory for the negro defendant. It was the first time more than one negro had served on a Shelby county jury.

The case involved suit of a white farmer against a former negro tenant for a $210 debt.

1st N. Y. Negro On Grand Jury

When on next Monday, Robert P Braddicks, vice-president of the Dunbar National Bank, begins service as a grand juror in Special Sessions Court, he will be the first Negro to serve in that capacity in Manhattan, so far as anyone can remember.

Mr. Braddicks and Henry C. Parker, Jr., formerly activities secretary of the West 135th street Y. M. C. A., qualified as grand jurors last November, but owing to an appointment as secretary of the Pittsburgh Y. M C. A., Mr. Parker will be unable to serve with Mr. Braddicks.

Since the issue of Negroes on grand juries came to the fore in the Scottsboro and other cases, it is rumored that influential persons have been active in bringing the names of prominent Harlemites to the attention of the authorities for grand jury duty, and it is likely that at least three more Negro grand jurors may be named later this year.

Charlotte, N. C. Observer
February 22, 1937

Two Sit On U. S. Grand Jury In Newark, N. J.

NEWARK, N. J.—The Rev Louis Berry, pastor of St Phillips Episcopal Church, and the Rev. James Locklear are members of the Federal Grand Jury sitting here and will hear all cases involving violation of Federal statutes from now until September 7.

Among the cases heard by the two men since their session began a month ago was that involving men accused of tampering with the jury which is hearing the sensational trial charge with the kidnaping and beating of Paul Wendell, who "confessed" to being the kidnaper of the Lindbergh baby.

First Negro Grand Juror In Generation To Serve

A new grand jury provided by special act of the Legislature will be sworn in Monday. In the panel from which the grand jury is selected is the name of one negro. There are 40 names in the panel, and 18 men are drawn for the actual jury. Mecklenburg today may have its first negro grand juror since Reconstruction.

Sam Jones and Fred "Mutt" Steel, negroes charged with murder in connection with shooting of Thomas Clifford Fowler, taxi driver, near Catawba river last fall, will be tried for their lives Tuesday in Judge J. A. Rousseau's criminal superior court.

Bills of indictment against the men will be presented to the new grand jury today, and trial of the cases will begin Tuesday according to Solicitor John G. Carpenter. Tommy Walls, negro, charged with first degree burglary, also will go on trial this week, probably Wednesday.

Jones, Steel, and Walls, all charged with capital crimes, were indicted shortly after their cases came up last fall, but the indictments were quashed when it was shown that the grand jury which issued the indictments was unconstitutional because it was drawn in such a way as to discriminate against negroes.

Wife-Leaver Fined By All-Negro Jury

WALNUT RIDGE, Ark., June 9.—What is believed to be the first all-negro jury in Arkansas yesterday convicted T. H. "Troubles" Wilson, negro, of wife abandonment and assessed a fine of $50 and the cost from which Wilson appealed.

The case was tried before Justice J. F. Israel, who ordered an all-negro jury subpoenaed to try the case.

Attorney To Bare Facts In Selection Of Jurors

Strength of the recent decision handed down by the Supreme Court of the United States in the famous Scottsboro case is to be tested in Fulton County on March 13, it was officially stated Sunday morning.

A petition, reportedly signed by Superior Judge Virlyn B. Moore and filed at the Fulton County Courthouse, alleges that the conviction last year of a man whose last name is Wright on a charge of criminal assault on a woman, is invalid by reason of the petitioner being denied due process of law and equal protection under the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

The petition was drawn up by Attorney Frank A. Bowers, white, legal representative for the convicted man.

Wright was sentenced to the electric chair, the date of his death fixed for last July 10, by Superior Judge James C. Davis. The case was appealed to the State Supreme Court.

Wright, through his attorney, will be given a hearing in a superior court on the morning of March 13.

Fulton County Sheriff James I. Lowry is named as the defendant in the petition. The petition asserts that the sheriff is "illegally restraining and detaining Wright and depriving him of his liberty."

The petition also sets out that Wright has been denied due process of the law by the State of Georgia, and has been discriminated against by the State of Georgia through its several acting officers.

The petition points out that no colored persons were on the grand jury or trial jury that heard the case of Wright mainly because of the procedure used by Fulton County in selecting its Grand jury and petit juries.

The petition alleges that the names of colored people are printed on yellow slips and the names of white persons printed on white slips to avoid selecting colored people to serve on the various juries.

Johnson City, Tenn., Press
March 19, 1937

FAVOR NEGRO JURORS

To the Editor:

No race has shown itself more capable of assimilating, western civilization than the negro. His advance in two generations from naked savagery to an indispensable place in a complicated community is an historical fact that should be pondered.

Yet with all the progress that the negro has made we haven't learned how to live together in order that we might better our conditions.

For the last few years Johnson City has had several negro slayings to its discredit, and there has been nothing done by the negro to see that the criminal receives the punishment to fit the crime.

We know that the increase in negro crime is due to the fact that during the last few years there has grown up, on the part of the white race, a spirit of race exclusiveness and intolerance.

It is difficult to change the physchology of an all white jury picked at random, from the attitude that "Just another negro has been killed," and it dosen't matter much, consequently they kill one another and either get out of it, or get off with some light sentence. Who knows when one of our friends or relatives may be killed by a race member and the courts take the same attitude they have in recent crimes. If the men of our race have lost their nerve to adventure for the rights of their community it is now time for the young men to take their place and demand that something be done about the crime among negroes.

The hope for the future negro in Johnson City, lies in the sinew which has brought the race thus far. For no small part of his advance the negro is indebted to friends both, North and South. And we here are indebted to the white citizens of Johnson City for what they have done in the past, and we think we should ask our influential white friends to help us in our time of need to prevent further crime in the future by appointing negroes to the jury where a negro is being tried, or putting a negro officer in the community were such crimes are being committed.

Y. M. SOCIAL CLUB.

NEGRO ON JURY

In the famous Scottsboro case, the Supreme Court again emphasized the fact that in order to make legal the conviction, especially of a Negro, a member of that race must be among the list in the jury box. It was proved that this was not true in the particular court where those boys were tried, hence the decision. There may be, mentioned numerous places where the thought is never given of thus considering the Negro. Recently in North Carolina a colored man was sentenced to die in the ethal gas chamber after being convicted for first degree burglary. An appeal was taken to the state preme Court again emphasized the fact that the Court avers that the jury was not improperly drawn. It seems that in that particular county the whites have ten thousand names in the box, and about six hundred colored names, and that there was one colored man on the jury returning a true bill against the appellant. The court states that this is a conclusive proof that there was nothing discriminatory about it. This is a step further than in many other places. In the future, there is liable to be constant appeals should the names of colored persons be not found in the jury box, or even called for service. In our county for years, even since the emancipation, colored men have served on the jury. There is one marked difference, however, these men were never called to serve on the grand jury. The jury commission and the ones have to do in any manner with the selection of names of the grand jury, should understand, that they will be blamed should the county be placed to extra expense, because of such appeals in event of conviction without a mixed jury.

Juries-1937

Negroes Must Sit On Juries In Oklahoma

"The exclusion of Negroes from jury service solely on account of their race and color, denies a Negro charged with crime the equal protection of the laws, contrary to the 14th Amendment of the Constitution of the United States," said the Oklahoma Criminal Court of Appeals last week in an opinion written by that outstanding exponent of human rights, Judge Thomas H. Doyle.

Basing its opinion upon this setup of facts, the Court remanded the Robert Hollands case for retrial in Washington county, where the defendant was sometime ago condemned to die, charged with killing a white man.

Judge Doyle in writing his opinion, concurred in by Justices Barefoot and Davenport, quotes the decision of the United States Supreme Court in the Jess Hollins case, and makes it the ruling decision in all cases hereafter arising in Oklahoma. It goes to show that the State Conference of Branches of the N. A. A. C. P. has been in the past few years blazing a path down which black citizens of Oklahoma may pass to their constitutional rights.

In quoting the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in the Jess Hollins case, the Criminal Court of Appeals includes this portion of the text:

"Petitioner was convicted in the District Court of Okmulgee County, Oklahoma, upon an information charging rape. At the trial, petitioner challenged the jury panel upon the ground that Negroes for a long period had been excluded from jury service in that county solely on account of their race or color, and that this discrimination had deprived petitioner of the equal protection of the laws in violation of the Constitution of the United States. Evidence was taken by the trial court upon this issue, the challenge was overruled, and petitioner excepted. Upon appeal, the federal question was presentd to th Criminal Court of Appals and was decided against petitioner. This Court granted a writ of certiorari, April 1, 1935, (294 U. S. 704, ante, 1'40 S. Ct. 636.) From its examination of the evidence, the Court is of the opinion that the case calls for the application of the principles declared in Neal vs. Deleware, 103 U. S. 370, 397, 26 L. Ed. 567, 574, and Morris vs. Alabama, 294 U. S. 587, ante, 1074, 55 S. Ct. 579.

"The judgment is reversed and the cause is remanded for further proceedings not inconsistent with this opinion."

Denial Of Race Jurors Wins Man A Death Reprieve

OKLAHOMA, CITY, Okla., April 16—Robert Holland, Bartlesville cleaner and presser, sentenced to death by an all white jury in Washington county for the slaying of James Cobb, white, night watchman and deputy sheriff, on the night of December 30, 1933, was granted a new trial by the Criminal Court of Appeals in a decision handed down, Friday, April 9.

The high court held that Holland was denied the equal protection of the law because Race men were unlawfully excluded from the jury which tried him. Following his convicton on May 13, 1936, Holland was placed in the death house at the McAlester penitentiary.

Holland was defended at his trial by Cecil E. Robertson, Muskogee attorney employed by the Oklahoma State conference of Branches of the NAACP. Robertson challenged the jury panel because, he charged, that Race men had never served as jurors in Washington county since its organization.

Albany-Decatur, Ala. Daily
June 7, 1937

TWO NEGROES ARE ON JURY

Two negroes, Clarence Pope and Will Patterson, were selected for jury duty today as the hearing of the suit of A. J. Morris against the National Union Fire Insurance Company began in circuit court this morning. A third negro, Manuel Johnson, was summoned but was excused from duty.

The suit grew out of a fire at Town Creek several years ago and the first hearing ended in a mistrial.

An unusually heavy docket is set for this week.

Another trial scheduled today was two suits filed by W. H. Stewart of Hartselle against Southern Cotton Oil Company. One is for $20,000 seeking damages in the death of his mother, Mrs. Mattie L. Stewart who was killed in an automobile accident near here last August 29, and the other is for 700 for damages to the Stewart car.

S. A. Lynne and Norman Harris represent the plaintiff while London and Yancey of Birmingham, and Charles H. Eyster of Decatur are attorneys for the defendant.

First Negro Juryman

LEESBURG, Va., Sept. 22 (ANP).—Lathan Johnson, first Negro to serve on a jury in this county since Reconstruction days, was a member of a special grand jury which on Wednesday indicted three colored men for first degree murder in connection with the holdup slaying last month of Henry Saffel, white, aged London merchant. The trio indicted were John Windsor, Lester Eddes and Charles Osborne. Saffel was killed as he tended his store alone.

Arkansas Has First Colored Jury

Walnut Ridge, Ark., (ANP)—An all-colored jury, the first in Arkansas since Reconstruction days and reputedly the first in state history, showed no leniency Tuesday for a member of their race. T. H. Troubles.

Justice J. F. Israel subpenaed the jury which fined Wilson $50 and costs for wife desertion.

ALL NEGRO JURY GIVE 'WORKS' TO WIFE DESERTER

WALNUT RIDGE, Ark., Sept. 16 (Special)—The first all-Negro jury ever empaneled in the State of Arkansas sat in Circuit Court here this week. Subpoenaed by order of Judge J. F. Israel, this jury administered impartial justice, with untempered severity, to one of their own race.

The case in which they served was that of T. H. Wilson, charged with deserting his wife. Finding him guilty, the jury assessed a fine of $50 against him, in addition to costs, specifying that in default of payment he should serve out the required term at hard labor.

First Negro Jury Member Convicts

LEESBURG, Va., Sept. 21.—With Lathan Johnson, first Negro to serve on a jury in this county since Reconstruction days, a member, a special grand jury Wednesday indicted three colored men for first degree murder in connection with the holdup slaying last week of Henry Saffel, white, aged London merchant.

The trio indicted were John Windsor, Lester Eddes, Charles Osborne. Saffel is said to have been killed as he tended his store alone.

TWO ON ALABAMA GRAND JURY

Birmingham, Ala.-Two Colored steel workers are on the Jefferson County grand jury here for the first time.

Afro-American
10-30-37
Baltimore, Md.

SERVES ON MISSISSIPPI JURY

MERIDIAN, Miss., Sept. 30 (ANP)—For the first time in eight years a Negro is sitting on a petit jury in Meridian. He is Frank H. Bryant of Collins, serving in the federal court which is in session here with Judge Sidney Mize presiding. Bryant stated he has served off and on for the past 16 years. The other jurors are white.

Jackson, Miss., News
September 23, 1937

NEGRO SERVES AS JUROR IN LAUDERDALE

MERIDIAN — (Special) — For the first time in eight years, a negro is serving on a petit jury in Meridian. Frank H. Bryant of Collins, negro, stated he has served off and on for the past 16 years. He is serving in the federal court which is in session here with Judge Sidney Mize presiding.

The grand jury is composed of E. R. Rowzee, Decatur, foreman; S. F. Kennery, Quitman; Lawrence Little, Paulette; H. L. Gabriel, Meehan; T. O. Gully, Neshoba; S. W. Davidson, Meridian; W. H. English, Quitman; J. H. Hailes, Shubuta; W. L. Ethridge, Collinsville; M. H. Luke, Preston; W. E. Holland, Vossburg; R. S. Wilder, Cuba, Ala.; C. H. Thomas, Scooba; H. H. McBay, Bay Springs; J. S. Hollingsworth, Newton; R. S. Davis, Shubuta; Jim West, DeKalb; S. T Whitney, Waynesboro; D. H. Kinard, Mashulaville; Lex Brame Paulding, and G. C. Henry, Philadelphia.

In his charge to the grand jury Judge Mize made a strong plea urging the members to act fairly and courageously, without fear or favor in returning indictments when the evidence justifies this action.

"Your duty is as important as any branch of this court. Without indictments, the court cannot function. If you believe, from the evidence presented that a person is guilty of the crime charged, then it is your duty to return an indictment. On the other hand, if evidence is insufficient to make you believe that the person is not guilty, then you should not return an indictment."

Judge Mize sustained one demurrer and overruled another in the case of the Houston National Bank of Houston, Texas, vs. the town of Scooba, et al. The suit filed against the town of Scooba and W. S. Carter, clerk, involves an alleged indebtedness of notes of certificates amounting to approximately $3,700. The demurrer was sustained against Mr. Carter and the demurrer of the town of Scooba was overruled. A number of criminal cases were set for trial next week.

Corn Partnership Dissolved By Jury

Six negroes sat on one jury in Federal Court yesterday—a record for the U. S. Middle District of Alabama. They, with the same number of white jurors, convicted five Montgomery negroes for violating the internal revenue laws. The defendants were tried jointly for operating an illicit liquor business. Evidence showed that Willie Harris, another negro who pleaded guilty, transported 200 gallons of unstamped corn liquor to Montgomery every week for the other five to dispose of.

It took the jury only a short time to find a verdict of guilty for the five defendants, Ocie Mitchell, Jordan King, Benny Wilson, Leon Warren, and Andrew Caffey. They will be sentenced today. According to the evidence of the Government, but denied by the defendants, Mitchell and King were partners in the establishment where the whisky was delivered. Warren is said to have been caught in the act of delivering a gallon.

Earlier in the day a jury acquitted O. W. Williams, of Covington County of violating the internal revenue laws but convicted his son, Hobson. In the same case, Ben Harris pleaded guilty. Roy Strickland, Jr., of the Eastern division, pleaded guilty to stealing an automobile and was sentenced to the U. S. Industrial Reformatory School at Chillicothe, Ohio for 30 months. Columbus Graham was acquitted of an internal revenue charge.

Only one case remained on the criminal docket for trial when court adjourned for the day. This case will be tried today and a number of prisoners sentenced.

First Negro Juror Returns Indictment Against Woman

LURAY, Va.—Charles Parks, a barber, was the first Negro to sit on a grand jury in Page County, today helping to return an indictment against Viola Good, 72-year-old woman, charged with the ax murder of her husband, John Good, 56. The trial was set for October 4.

First Negro Seated On Virginia Jury

LURAY, Va., Oct.—Charles Parks was the first Negro to sit on a Grand Jury in Page County. Parks, a barber, helped to return an indictment against Viola Good, 72-year-old woman, charged with the axe-murder of her husband, John Good, 56. The trial was held on October 4.

NEGRO JURORS

LONG AND TEDIOUS LITIGATION that extended from the Alabama hamlet where the famous Scottsboro trials were staged to the United States Supreme Court, was required to arouse each and every state of our nation to the fact that Negroes, especially those residing in the South, were victims of gross injustices due to refusal of jury commissions placing names of qualified Negroes in jury boxes.

A ruling of the highest court of our land served to arouse officials and courts in many sections to an immediate compliance with the law that makes it mandatory to have ample representation from the ranks of the Negro racial group on the jury lists.

Notwithstanding the tremendous effort put forth and the excellent results obtained in behalf of justice for the Negro, the absolute indifference on the part of members of the racial group in taking advantage of the opportunity to serve in the vastly important role of juror, indicates nothing more nor less than sheer ignorance and flagrant ingratitude.

Especially is this true concerning the state of affairs in Knox county. It has been noticable on more than one occasion that Negroes have been summoned for jury service and every effort imaginable has been advanced to be excused from serving, and in a majority of the cases, they have been successful in being excused.

The Knox county jury commission composed of Messrs. Chandler, Connor and Gilbert are fair in making up the jury lists as they include names of Negro citizens who are qualified to serve. Little or no discrimination has been encountered by Negroes who have been called to serve Knox county courts. In view of these favorable conditions, does not the situation suggest a very definite avenue wherein the race's leadership should immediately get busy in educating as well as encouraging men to serve whose names might be handed to the jury commission for service on juries? This important matter should not be overlooked.

Race Man In Jury Box To Try 'Blonde Borgia'

CINCINNATI, Oct. 15—A Race laborer was among the seven jurors seated to try Mrs. Anna Marie Hahn in the so-called "mass murder trial." Questioning of the tentative jurors, preparatory to the first day of the trial on October 11, indicated that the state would demand the death penalty for the blonde German immigrant, 31 years old, who is under first degree murder indictments charging her with having poisoned Jacob Wagner, 78, and George Gsellman, 67, both of Cincinnati.

Harlemite Is Among First Women Jurors

Mrs. Leola Lillard, 409 Edgecombe avenue, former newspaper woman who was on the staff of The Amsterdam News for eleven years, has the distinction of being the first colored woman to serve on a jury in Manhattan. Mrs. Lillard was appointed by the Commissioner of Jurors on September 14 and has served in the Criminal Court on one case.

SIX NEGROES SIT ON ALA. FEDERAL JURY

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Oct. 14—For the first time in the history of Alabama six race men sat on a Federal jury Thursday, and with six whites, convicted five race men for selling illicit liquor.

Nine Negroes For Grand Jury Duty

First Time Colored Men Have Been Called Here For This Service

For the first time in the history of Chatham county, the names of Negroes have been drawn for service on the Grand Jury.

Among the 325 citizens selected for this service, nine are Negroes. They are: Curtis W. Bell, Edgar C. Blackshear, M. G. Graham, Frank Cain, Henry McCullough, Edward Petty, Lawrence W. Sales, Walter S. Scott and Louis B. Toomer.

It is understood the names of Negro citizens went into the Grand Jury box in accordance with the recent ruling of the United States Supreme Court in the Scottsboro case from Alabama. In the Scottsboro case the conviction of Negro defendants was successfully attacked on the ground no Negro citizens names were in the Grand Jury box.

Augusta, Ga. Herald
October 22, 1937

CHATHAM COUNTY CALLS NINE NEGROES FOR GRAND JURYMEN

According to The Savannah Journal, "for the first time in perhaps the history of Chatham County names of nine negroes have been placed on the grand jury.

"At a recent meeting of the July commission called by Hon. John H. Rourke, judge of the Superior Court of the Eastern Judicial Circuit, the following were named: Curtis W Bell. Edgar C. Blackshear, M. G. Graham, Frank Cain, Henry McCullough, Lawrence W. Sales, Louis B. Toomer and W. S. Scott.

"In a recent newspaper account it was stated that the action of the court in placing negroes on the panel was due to the ruling of U. S. Supreme Court in the Scottsboro case, in which a new trial was granted on the ground that no negro citizens' names were in the grand jury box," The Journal states.

Juries - 1937

First Negro Since Civil War Serves On Arlington County, Virginia Trial Jury

Courier 1-16-37 Pittsburgh, Pa.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 14—(ANP) — J. J. Carpenter, 60, a local contractor and carpenter, this week, became the first colored man to serve on a trial jury in Arlington County, Va., since the reconstruction days following the Civil War. He is a native of the county and the jury on which he sat heard the case of Carrie Branch, colored, charged with an assault upon Elmer Fleet, also colored. Judge Walter T. McCarthy of the County Circuit court, presided. The defendant was found guilty and sentenced to a year in the county jail. Several months ago, another colored Virginian served as a member of the Arlington county grand jury, also the first since the reconstruction period.

went on trial. Judge E. H. Granmer, noted jurist, who the day before had declared in his charge to the Craven County grand jury, that the county and state needed God to help run the affairs of state, on a special venue of 25 men to sit in judgment over young Brown, being tried for his life. Judge Cranmer, requested that Sheriff R. B. Lane, summon Negroes to serve on the jury.

Of the 25 jurymen summoned, six were Negroes and three were chosen to serve. They were Messrs: T. T. Boulware, local District Manager of the North Carolina Mutual Life Ins. Co.; George P. Dudley, retired Railway Mail clerk and noted politician of the Days of Congressmen O'Hara and, White; Henry C. Sparrow, local contractor, civic and religious leader.

Some time ago the United States Supreme court, remanded several cases in Alabama because Negroes were excluded from the jury where Negro defendants were being tried for life. Though Negroes have been included to serve on juries in the several parts of the state including Charlotte, Raleigh, Durham and other points, Judge E. H. Granmer has made history and set a noble precedent in law-enforcement and justice Wednesday, Jan. 6th in Craven County Superior court.

According to noted while historians, it is stated that this is the first time since the political history of 1896, 97 and 98 that Negroes were allowed to participate and execute their franchise and political rights as citizens and taxpayers of the county.

During the heated political campaign of the dates above mentioned and the brilliant political career of the idol of Craven county the now retired Senator F. M. Simmons, who is credited with other state office-holders staunchly the great and late Governor Aycock, and others of the same political views of their day, wrested the political rights of the state from the hands of Negroes; many Negro citizens were thrown out of minor offices which they held and none were allowed to further aspire to any public office of the county or state because of white supremacy.

Not only is President Roosevelt and the New Deal Administration setting a new pace in American Democracy, in and around the Nation's capital, but the true spirit of Americanism, is spreading all over the Nation and new America is now in the making. White men serving on the jury with the newly called jurymen were: Messrs. J. W. Joyner, J. M. Ward, A. W. Holton, Frank D. Perry, Kirby Willis, J. M. Aberly, H. C. Landreth, Dewy Gillikin and W. F. Dowdy. Attorney W. J. Lanche Jr., was appointed to represent the defendant Brown. Mr. B. M. Bratcher, was sworn in as special officer. Brown pleaded not guilty under the law. Brown, the jury found is reputed to have admitted his guilt in the slaying of Mr. J. B. Peacock and was sentenced to the lethal gas chamber by Judge Cranmer, Friday, Jan. 8.

NEGROES ON JURY.

NEW BERN, Jan. 7—(AP) — Three negroes were accepted on a Superior court jury here, making the first mixed jury in Craven county since the turn of the century.

Carpenter Breaks Va. Jury Precedent

Afro American 1-16-37

WASHINGTON

A 60-year-old, carpenter, J. J. Carpenter became the first negro white member to sit on a trial jury in Arlington County, Va., in nearly seventy years, in a case tried this week.

PLACE 3 MEN ON JURY IN NEW ERA

1-14-37

True Democracy Gets Upper Hand As Man Gets Death Vote

GOOD INDICATION

By REV. D. F. MARTINEZ

NEW BERN, N. C.—(SNS)—True Democracy, the platform principles of the New Bern World for four years of its existence in New Bern and Craven County, advocating true justice and fair-play for the Negro citizens of New Bern and Craven county was realized here last Wednesday, Jan. 6, in Craven County Superior court when Robert Glen Brown, young Negro charged with first degree murder of J. B. Peacock, elderly Craven County white merchant

Washington, N. C. News
January 7, 1937

Negroes Sit On Craven Court Jury

New Bern, Jan. 7.— For the first time in 40 years, negroes sat on a Craven county superior Court jury here yesterday and they helped convict a member of their race of first degree murder, thereby making it mandatory for Presiding Judge E. H. Cranmer to sentence the negro to die by lethal gas.

Robert Glenn Brown, young negro, was found guilty of the murder of J. B. Peacock, an aged Craven county merchant. Previously he had confessed the crime to officers after his apprehension.

In a special venire of 25 men summonded for the case, Judge Cranmer had instructed Sheriff R. B. Lane to include several negroes, and three were drawn for the jury: T. T. Boulware, insurance agent; Henry Sparrow, bricklayer; and George P. Dudley, retired railway clerk. It took the three negroes and nine white men on the jury one hour and five minutes to reach their verdict after a trial that lasted all the afternoon.

Charlotte, N. C. Observer
January 10, 1937

Negro Serves on Jury.

A NEGRO SERVED on a trial jury in Mecklenburg superior court last week for the first time in the present century—some say the first time since Reconstruction days.

T. K. Harrison, Crab Orchard township negro farmer, was the second man to be called to take his place in the regular trial jury box Monday, the opening day of a new term of criminal court.

The first case tried by the jury composed of 11 white men and one negro was that of Holland W. Weir, 29-year-old white man, charged with simple assault, damaging property and being drunk and disorderly. He was convicted on all three counts.

The way was opened for negroes to serve on Mecklenburg juries last year when certain lawyers raised the question of the rights of a negro defendant in a case in which the jury had been drawn by a process that eliminated all negro names. The judge ruled that such a method of making up the jury lists was unlawful in view of the U. S. Supreme Court's decision in the Alabama case, the highest tribunal having held that negroes could not legally be barred from jury service.

Tarboro, N. C. Southerner
January 7, 1937

Negroes On Craven Jury For First Time In Forty Years

New Bern, Jan. 7.—For the first time in 40 years, Negroes sat on a Craven county superior court jury here today and they helped convict a member of thier race of first degree murder, thereby making it mandatory for the presiding judge, E. H. Cranmer, to sentence tomorrow to die by lethal gas Robert Glenn Brown, young Negro, who was found guilty of the murder of J. B. Peacock, an aged Craven county merchant. Previously he had confessed the crime to officers after his apprehension.

Charlotte, N. C. Observer
January 19, 1937

NEGRO JUROR SWORN IN

A. A. Wellman First of Race To Serve In Gaston County.

GASTONIA, Jan. 18—A. A. Wellman was sworn in today as the first negro juror in Gaston county's history.

Wellman, selected as a regular juror by county commissioners after they recently placed negroes' names in the jury box in accordance with a ruling of Judge J. Will Pless based on the United States Supreme Court decision in the Scottsboro case, was seated as a regular member of jury No. 2.

Wellman had not been seated on any cases early this afternoon but that was because the No. 2 jury had not been needed up to that time.

Twelve divorce cases were ground out as Judge J. A. Rousseau opened a two-weeks' civil court term. The divorces: Harry from Mary Hill, Polly from O. Forrest Gregory, Josie from Tony Sabetti, Glenn from Pearl Clemmer, John from Cordia Christenbury, Blonnie from Samuel Kinley, Goldie from William Hollar, Madeline from Shannon Murphy, Effie May from Raymond Holland, Junie from W. M. Lang, Houston from Elizabeth Parker, and Annie Eliabeth from E. A. Alexander.

Four Names Drawn for Jury Service

Afro American

WASHINGTON

Among persons drawn for petit jury services in the District U.S. court for the mid-winter term were: 1-23-37

Samuel M. Graham, 34, 1325 Fifth Street, Northwest; Henry Upshaw, 44, 2614 Georgia Avenue, Northwest; and William C. Bennett, 47, 302 I Street, Northwest.

'NON-NEGRO JURY,' PLEA FAILS TO SAVE LIFE

NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 14—(ANP)--Failure of officials in Caldwell parish to include Negroes on the jury lists as was made mandatory by the Scottsboro decision means nothing in the case of William Gill, colored farmer, sentenced to die for murdering his stepdaughter and his own two small children. The death sentence was upheld last week by the State supreme court.

Gill sought a new trial on grounds that the general venire box of Caldwell parish contained the name of only one Negro at the time the grand jury that indicted him was drawn, and also the name of only one Negro was on the petit list at the time the trial jury was selected.

The defense said colored persons had been excluded from grand and petit juries because of race for many years, which constitutes a denial of due process of law.

The State supreme court, however, declared that this failure to include colored jurymen was "not a violation of the law" and that Gill was tried "fairly and impartially" and there was "no feeling of prejudice on account of race and color in this case as there was in the Scottsboro case."

Gill admitted drowning his 13-year-old stepdaughter and later drowning his own small daughters in an effort to conceal the murder of the stepchild. His own children had watched their father drown their step-sister, according to the record.

Jury History In South Carolina

IN CONFORMITORY with the [illegible] laid down last year by the United State Supreme Court, in a review of the "Scottsboro cases" wherein the Court held that an indictment of a Negro charged with a crime by a Grand Jury from which Negroes have consistently been barred, is not legal, a South Carolina Jury Commission, recently named two colored men on the Grand Jury panel, and two to serve as petit jurors.

"This may not be something new under the sun," states the Palmetto Leader editorially, "but it certainly is new to any and all citizens 50 years or less in age. Such citizens just have no memory of such a thing as colored citizens being a member of the Grand Jury."

The significance of this history-making event, lies, as the editorial points out, not so much in the Commission's obedience to the law, but rather in the interpretation of its own responsibility in setting a precedent, the excellence of whch is revealed in the caliber of those selected for jury service, namely, Prof. C. A. Johnson, Supervisor of the city Negro schools and Mr. W. H. Harvey, District Manager of the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company for the Grand Jury, and Prof. W. A. Perry and Mr. Clifton Nance, civic leaders and men of high standing for the petit jury.

Lexington, N. C. Dispatch
January 25, 1937

Moore County Negro Grand Jury Member

June Harrington, respected colored citizen of the Cameron neighborhood, is unconsciously making Moore county history by being the first of his race to serve on a jury in the remembrance of the oldest inhabitant, reports The Moore County News. He is a member of the grand jury.

According to Pharoah Bullock, the grand jury officer, who knows him well, Harrington is an honest, hard working colored man and fully competent to serve on a jury. His fellow jurors likewise give him a good name. They say he is quiet and orderly, hasn't much to say, unless asked to express an opinion, and has cooperated fully with his colleagues in all cases, even though one involved a first degree murder indictment against a colored man of his own community.

Although he has refrained from exercising the prerogative, Harrington has been entitled to vote ever since attaining majority under the famous "Grandfather Clause". Four other colored men of his township which is Greenwood, also come under the clause.

Harrington is married and the father of three children. He lives on his mother's small farm, which he will some day inherit. He raises mainly cotton, tobacco and corn. Like many others, both black and white, he was hard hit by the depression. Added to this, he suffered the loss of his mule and also his tiny home, which was burned about this time. But, nothing daunted, he applied for government relief, and by means of a mule furnished him by the relief agency, was able to get on his feet again. He is now self-sustaining, has been able to buy a mule of his own, rebuild his home, and to purchase a car.

For his services as a member of the grand jury, he draws $2.00 per day, and 10c per mile, one way, from his home near Cameron to the court house, which in this rainy, unprofitable farming weather, should prove quite profitable.

A negro recently served on a trial jury at Charlotte.

Chatsworth, Ga., Times
February 4, 1937

Jury Duty

There is nothing new in the resentment that some men feel when they are left off jury lists. In Thomas county it was deemed wise to put some negro men on the list in view of the decision on the Scottsboro case in Alabama. There is a wide division of opinion as to the purport of the decision and the effect in the southern states. Suffice to say the local jury commissioners placed twelve colored men on the jury that tries cases. One who was drawn was not required to serve, when he asked for excuse.

An excuse from jury duty is sought by a good many men, when it would be infinitely better if they decided to serve and to take what comes and do their bit toward the elimination of some of our criminal action by properly considering and punishing those who are guilty. Yet we find at every court a lot of men asking to be relieved, when it is not essential or necessary.

Many have served at a sacrifice but there are some who consider only their own comfort and peace of mind and never think that they could be of service in eliminating some of the troubles of the criminal courts if they would only take the matter seriously enough to give their services when the time comes to pass on cases.

Every time court meets you find a number asking to be relieved. Many are on providential grounds and many more are for reasons only known to the judges and the prospective jurors. When too many are allowed to escape service it is hard to get good jurors. Where good, sound, business men serve regularly when they are called it is easy to get a good jury and the hangers on or "want to serve" men do not get anywhere. — Thomasville Times-Enterprise.

All-Negro Jury Acquits Woman Of Murder Charge

DAYTON, Ohio. —(ANP.) —Ohio's first all-Negro jury Thursday night acquitted Miss Ruby Lee Francis of the murder of her alleged sweetheart, Earl Walker, after five hours of deliberation. The trial was held before Judge Franklin G. Kreibhel.

Testimony showed that the slain man lived at the home of Miss Francis as a roomer and that one night last August, the day of the killing, he had beaten the young woman severely before he was fatally wounded by a shotgun blast.

4 Race Members Chosen For Jury

SPRINGFIELD, Ohio, Nov. 26—Four members of the Race took their seats late last week along with three men and four women to complete the jury selected to decide the fate of Henry Dingledine, 27, white, charged with killing two officers.

Dingledine is accused of killing Deputy Sheriff Edward Furry and Patrolman Martin Randolph, September 3 in a gun battle at Crystal Lake. Robert Cornette, 32, paroled convict, was also killed during the exchange of bullets. The two were said to have robbed a cafe proprietor just before they were run down by the officers.

Race People Drawn On Carolina Venire

DUNN, N. C., Nov. 24—Three Negroes were drawn on the jury venire here to hear the trial this week of Sina Pope Godwin, a white woman, charged with slaying her third husband. If they are allowed to sit in the jury, it will make history here.

Juries - 1937

NEGRO JUROR FINDS SAFETY IN JAIL CELL

Felix Smith, East St. Louis, Threatened After Finding Slayer Guilty

BELLEVILLE, Ill. — Because he served on the jury that found John J. Hamilton, white, member of the St. Clair county board of review, guilty of the murder of Thomas Grissom, East St. Louis union business agent, Saturday afternoon, Felix Smith was forced to flee to the St. Clair county jail Monday for safety.

Tuesday, flu, that dread winter disease, drove him from the comparative safety of the jail back to his home at 23 South Twelfth street, East St. Louis. Police promised Smith that he and his family would receive adequate protection.

At the same time, officers revealed that Belleville police were also guarding the home of Curt C. Lindauer, white, special prosecutor, for his activity in the prosecution of Hamilton.

Smith not only was the lone Negro serving on the jury in the Hamilton case but was the sole East St. Louisan on the jury. He is employed by the Swift packing company. He is 37 years old.

The Hamilton case was one of the most sensational in the history of this section. Hamilton was given 50 years for the murder of Grissom. His wife was also slain in the same gun fight.

Hamilotn Threatened

Smith was on his way to the barber shop Sunday night when a small sedan, said to have contained three young white men, drove up beside him on Broadway near Ninth street.

"What right has a n—— got to tell when a white man does...," one of the white men asked him, Smith told officers.

"This is the n—— that sent Jack to the pen," another man broke in.

Smith then said that the first man who spoke to him advised him to get out of town and stay.

It was shortly after that that a second automobile, this one said to have been a large Packard sedan, stopped near him.

"You'd better get out of town or you'll get the works." one of the men in the second machine advised him. Both cars had Illinois licenses.

Smith said that he started looking for a bus. He came to St. Louis on a bus and stayed with friends Sunday night.

Spends Night in Jail

Monday, the bewildered and frightened man came to Belleville and told the sheriff of what had happened.

He spent Monday night in jail, a voluntary prisoner.

Tuesday, Smith complained of feeling ill. He was chilly and weak. He was in no mood for talking.

The sheriff expressed the opinion that he had been more frightened than ill but assured Smith that he would see that he received adequate protection.

Smith, who was apparently in good health when he entered the jail Monday, left the building about 3 o'clock Tuesday afternoon. He appeared nervous, weak and shaky. 'Twas the flu, he told reporters. He had but little to say.

"Why I didn't realize what I was doing," Smith commented. "I was so scared. I don't know why they picked on me. I wasn't the only one on the jury."

When he received assurances from the sheriff that he would see that he and his family would be adequately protected against attack, Smith was glad to leave the jail. It's no place for honest and upright citizens, he believes, but what safety does a citizen have, especially a citizen who does his full duty and serves on a jury?

HELPING A NEGRO JUROR

Attorney William Wallace of Roberta enjoys reminiscences about the Hall family of Crawford county. This is the family from which Joe Hill Hall sprang, and which gave to Georgia Associate Justice Samuel Hall of the Georgia Supreme court. Mr. Wallace says the family was remarkable in a great many ways. It was not only outstanding for its intellect, but its members had many sentimental and patriotic distinctions. Joe Hill Hall, according to Mr. Wallace believed no other soil was sacred enough to hold the remains of his relatives, so he influenced burial in the Knoxville cemetery for all who died before his death. Yet his remains were not taken there.

The story is told of the deeding of a farm place to one of the faithful servants of the Hall family; and Mr. Wallace tells of the time when Negroes were numerously used on the federal court juries. He says Joe Hill Hall took great pleasure in telling of a personal experience with one of the Negro jurors. Down in the Oglethorpe section was Tom Hall, a Negro who derived his name through the Hall family. Tom had a boy named Tom. The court issued a jury summons to pater Tom, but pater was not at home. The mother and young Tom talked over the matter. They couldn't afford to let the court suffer for a juror, nor could they afford to lose the two dollars a day that federal court jurors were then drawing for their service. The mother told young Tom to present himself to the court as the juror wanted. As soon as "Marse Joe" saw young Tom he knew something was wrong.

"What are you doing here, Tom?"

"I'm on the jury."

"You are not old enough to be on the jury."

"I got a paper," and he produced the summons that had been intended for his father.

"You know that paper wasn't intended for you."

"I can do the job," answered Tom.

Mr. Hall decided to leave the matter between Tom and the court, so he said nothing about the "mistake."

"How are you going to live on two dollars a day and pay your board while you are here?"

"I'm going to eat at your house," said Tom.

Mr. Hall expected this. He knew it would have happened even if pater Tom had come to serve on the jury. Tom was accepted without question when the jurors were called, and Mr. Joe Hill Hall spread a pallet for him on the back-porch of his Vineville home, and saw that young Tom had three square meals a day while serving his country as a juror. Tom's two dollars a day was net profit so far as living expenses were concerned. Afterwards Uncle Sam became more generous and raised the pay of his jurors to three dollars a day.

PROVE JURY BARRIER EXISTS IN DIXIELAND

NASHVILLE, July 7 (ANP).—Alexander Looby, dean of Kent College of Law and practicing attorney hurled a bomb into the Tennessee jury system Saturday when, before Judge Chester K. Hart, he showed Negroes are barred because of race and color, despite testimony by commissioners.

Goodlow Cockrill, member of the Jury Commission, testified he and his group paid no attention to color when a seven-year-old little girl drew out names from the box, made up of names taken from the registration books and "other sources." He said he knew that Negroes were in the box because their names were marked with "C," "B," or "Col."

He added that he selected people whom he thought were capable and would make good jurymen and every two years 4,500 names are drawn and put into the jury box. On cross-examination it was brought out that only two Negroes have been summoned for jury service and they were "barbers who worked at the same white barber shop where white city officials got their hair cut."

Jury Issue Is Up Again In Tennessee

Bryant Hits System As Witness Before Nashville Court

By HERMAN J. D. CARTER

NASHVILLE, Tenn.— (ANP) —Fighting with the valor of Napoleon, Z. Alexander Looby, dean of Kent College of Law and practicing attorney, hurled a bomb into the Tennessee jury system Saturday when, before Judge Chester K. Hart, he showed Negroes are barred because of race and color despite testimony by commissioners.

Goodlow Cockrill, member of the jury commission, testified he and his group paid no attention to color when the seven year old little girl drew out the names from the box, made up of names taken from the registration books and "other sources." He said he knew that Negroes were in the box because their names were marked with "C," "B," or "Col."

TWO BARBERS CALLED

He added that he selected people whom he thought were capable and would make good jurymen and every two years 4,500 names are drawn and put into the jury box. On cross examination, it was brought out that only two Negroes have been summoned for jury service and they were "barbers who worked at the same white barber shop where white city officials got their hair cut." They were selected recently, but refused to serve.

The commissioner further testified that "this list is the official list we made up," and Looby brought out on cross examination that the list is not official but a copy of some names brought into the court and given to the clerk to send to the sheriff.

These exhibits of the jury "list" as drawn up by the commission were artistically typed, unsealed and unsigned, addressed to the sheriff, and Negroes' names were inserted at intervals almost equally distant on the slips which appeared to be made up for that purpose.

BRYANT ASSAILS SYSTEM

Looby putting many intelligent and influential witnesses on the stand, proved that Negroes had been systematically excluded from jury system for 48 years.

Ira T. Bryant, secretary of A. M. E. S. S. union said, "I have been fighting for Negroes on the system for many years, and I would have known of it if one had been used. Those Negroes you have here are not representative of our race in whole. When you want some legislation or moral issue put over, then you don't go to those Negroes in that low class area."

In spite of his identification of the list, neither of the two commissioners would swear that the list was the official jury list they made up.

The case, an age of consent case action between a colored boy and woman, the boy represented by Looby and the girl by white lawyers, was ruled in favor of Looby to be tried in next fall term court over the protest of Attorney Nochols. Looby contends the case will go to Supreme court if it is lost in the lower courts.

CHANGE COLORED JUROR FOR WHITE

GREENSBORO, N.C. — A new grand jury had, to be impaneled here Monday, when one of the eighteen jurors was found to be C. R. Johnson, colored, instead of V. R. Johnson, white.

When the name was called at the opening of court, the colored man answered, and was duly assigned to duties on the jury. In the afternoon, a white man named V. R. Johnson appeared, and said that he had been summoned for jury duty.

He was promptly put in the place of the first man. Why he was so late in answering the summons to duty was not explained.

Mt. Airy, N. C., News
July 8, 1937

Names Of Negroes Placed In Surry County Jury Box

New List Now Conforms To Requirements of Supreme Court; Colored Members Hardly Expected To Be Used.

As required by law that the jury box of the county be revised each two years, the county commissioners in session Monday at Dobson placed more than 2,000 names in the jury box, who will be called upon to serve at some possible time during the next two years.

Some months ago the United States Supreme Court ruled a jury trial was not constitutional where members of the venire were barred by reason of their race. Such had been done in most of the Southern states, and also in Surry County. To avoid any conflict with the high court the commissioners of Surry County now have the names of eligible Negroes in the Jury box from every township in the county.

In making up the list to be used Mr. Lawrence, clerk to the board and Register of Deeds, said most of the men selected were those who paid poll tax. A man more than 50 years old is not listed to pay this tax and in that way the commissioners were able to select the members by their age. Another requirement to be selected on a jury is that th man must own real estate and have paid his 1935 county tax. No women's names were placed in the jury box, although they now enjoy all the privilges of ballot and office holding that are enjoyed by men.

MORE COLORED MEN ON JURY

The jury commission of Chatham County is now in session revising the jury list. This revision is made periodically. In the present jury box the names of a few colored citizens may be found for petit service. If there are any on the grand jury side, can not be stated. In fact not one of them has been called for such a service. There should be an increase in the number of names in the box. Occasionally, some of our men are called for service, but far less than in former years. It is hoped that the commission will take cognizance of this situation and see that there will be quite an addition to the list.

Greensboro, N. C., News
August 18, 1937

INDIANS AND NEGROES GET CALL AS JURORS

Members of Two Races Summoned For Duty In Superior Court In Robeson County.

(Special to Daily News)

Lumberton, Aug. 17.—For the first time since reconstruction days, Robeson county had negroes in the jury box today. At the same time the Indian population of some 13,000 was recognized by calling in Indian jurors: Indian and negro talismen were summoned by order of Judge G. V. Cowper, of Kinston, presiding over a term of Superior court.

Indians had petitioned both the court and county commissioners to be allowed jury service, contending their presence on juries would increase convictions among their own race and reduce the high homicide rate.

Tonight Judge Cowper said he was petitioned Monday for representation of Indians on the jury; that after investigation he found that names of Indians were in the boxes but were not drawn he ordered that some of the best Indians of the county be drawn as talismen.

After the Indians had been placed on the jury other court officers suggested that negroes be included and had two negroes summoned.

"I had nothing to do with summoning the negroes," the judge stated.

All-Race Jury Serves In Arkansas Case

WALNUT RIDGE, Ark., Sept. 17.—Marking the first all-Negro jury to serve in Arkansas since reconstruction days, and believed to be the first in the state's history, was summoned by Justice J. F. Israel.

The jury decided the case of T. H. "Troupies" Wilson, charged with wife desertion. Wilson was fined $50 and costs.

Asheville, N. C., Citizen
September 5, 1937

Negro Drawn For Jury Service In McDowell

MARION, Sept. 4. (Special)—For the first time in more than half a century a negro has been drawn for duty service in McDowell county superior court.

John Anderson, negro of Old Fort, will report, along with 77 white residents of McDowell county, to court here Monday morning for the selection of a jury to try Mann Smith, 15-year-old negro, of the Black Bottom section of Marion, on a charge of criminal assault on a 12-year-old white school girl of Marion.

Judge Felix E. Alley, of Waynesville, will preside when the negro goes on trial for his life. Officers said the negro defendant confessed to assaulting the girl as she made her way through a wooded section in the edge of town one afternoon last May.

Smith was found by officers and a posse of citizens as he crouched in a closet of a negro's home in the Black Bottom section of Marion late at night following the attack. McDowell officers escorted him from the community as fast as possible and he was lodged in the Buncombe county jail at Asheville pending trial.

Hearing of the case was set for last June, but was postponed because of the absence of the names of negroes from the jury list drawn for that term.

Talladega, Ala., Daily Home
October 14, 1937

Ten-Man Jury Sitting In Circuit Court Case

The rare instance of a 10-man jury sitting on a case was occurring in Circuit Court here Thursday.

It happened like this:

One of the jurors selected, through the process of striking veniremen who were not wanted, turned out to be a Negro.

Attorneys for plaintiff and defendant agreed that he might step aside.

The case got under way and another juror suddenly announced that his nephew is an employe of the defendant company.

Again the attorneys agreed—that the juror might stand down and that the case might proceed with only 10 jurors in the box.

North Carolina Man Called For Superior Court Jury Service

BURLINGTON, N. C., Dec. 16—(ANP)—Samuel B. Thomas, well known member of this community and the owner of a sheet metal shop here, last Thursday had the distinction of being the first Negro in Alamance County to be empaneled on a Superior Court jury. He was placed on the jury at the current criminal session of court at Graham, in the cases of Earl Thompson, charged with bastardy and H. A. Doyle, accused of driving a car while intoxicated. Judge Walter [illegible] presided.

A number of Negroes have been drawn for jury duty in the past few years, but none has ever been actually empaneled.

One Of Two Negro Jurors Off With Purge Of Jury

C. H. Fisher, well known Fremont Street citizen, and Houston Winton, of Eastport, were the only two members of the Negro racial group selected to serve on the November term of the Knox County grand jury.

In purging the grand jury, by Judge E. G. Brooksbury, of the Knox county criminal court, last Saturday morning, Winton was among the four grand jury members who told of having voted for "not true" bills in certain cases presented before the grand jury, and he was dropped from further serving along with three white jurors. The purge was the first ever conducted in the history of Knox county courts.